autonomous Corporation has informed that Doordarshan has been improving its programming structure and policies to match the competition while discharging its mandate as a Public Service Broadcaster. Various steps like appointment of expert Advisory Committees, revised guidelines for bringing transparency and objectivity in programming, improvement in transmission quality and awards for excellence, have been taken to enhance the quality and content of Doordarshan programmes.

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that news bulletins have already been introduced round the clock and the news headlines are carried every hour. All the news bulletins and news headlines are telecast live.

Encouraging nudity, obscenity and violence on Cinema and TV

†2004. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that major media of publicity like cinema and television, have been encouraging nudity, obscenity and violence as a result of which children and youth are being spoiled; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to strictly control/restrict obscenity being shown through foreign films, channels, advertisements and other media?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati has Programme and Advertising Codes which *inter-alia*, prohibit telecast/broadcast of any programme or advertisement, which contains anything obscene. Doordarshan and All India Radio abide by the codes while telecasting/ broadcasting their programmes.

The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programmes and advertising codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code prohibits carriage of such programmes in Cable Service, which offend good taste or decency, contain anything obscene and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. Programmes meant for children are prohibited from carrying explicit scenes of violence.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Government has constituted a Committee of Officers from the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence and Law to render advice on complaints regarding any programme of any channel not being in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code. Government has constituted another committee to look into violations of the Advertising Code.

In so far as the Print Media is concerned, the Government does not interfere in the matters relating to the Press. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalists Conduct according to which Newspapers/ Journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public good taste.

The Government has enacted the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner. In addition, legal provisions exist in various statutes to deal with indecent publications.

All films, including advertisement films, intended for public exhibition in India are required to be certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines issued thereunder. CBFC, while examining films for certification, ensures, *inter-alia*, that human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity, depravity, sex and violence.

Low conviction rate in Criminal Courts

2005. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the conviction rate in Criminal Courts is low in the country;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to improve the conviction rate in the interest of the general public; and

(d) if so, the details of the measures taken in this regard?